



Firemen of the Joliet arsenal, who haven't had to battle a blaze in some time, got a workout yesterday as they demonstrated their skill by partially "saving" a building on the arsenal grounds. The structure, made of old cases and part of a shed contaminated by long proximity to explosives, burned vigorously after it had been set on fire during a Fire Prevention week program arranged by arsenal officials. Firemen are shown here pouring water on the blaze. They had it completely extinguished in less than 15 minutes. (Herald-News photo.)

Arsenal Firemen Rush to Rescue As 'House' Burns

Fire, which has been both friend and foe of mankind since prehistoric times, was viewed in some of its more destructive moods under controlled conditions yesterday at the Joliet arsenal as members of the arsenal fire fighting force put on a demonstration for employees and off-reservation guests.

Main feature of the demonstration, arranged by James Moody, arsenal safety inspector, in observance of Fire Prevention week, was the setting ablaze of a mock-up house constructed of wooden cases and part of an old shed. This took place near the Elwood Ordnance plant burning pits, northeast of the arsenal headquarters.

TWO MINUTES after the flames had enveloped the "house"—which arsenal officials were careful to explain contained nothing but explosive-contaminated wood—two fire trucks roared up, with sirens screaming. They came from a fire barn more than a mile away. In another 20 seconds the raincoat-clad firemen had unrolled their hose, connected it to a hydrant more than 100 yards away, and were pouring a stream of water on the conflagration.

While one of the trucks connected to the hydrant, the other ran a line to a nearby pond and pumped water for a second line of hose. Altho the explosive-saturated wood burned much more furiously than any ordinary structure, the arsenal "fire-eaters" extinguished the flames within less than 15 minutes. Roy Mortensen is chief of the fire department on the reservation and Acting Chief Frank Kennedy was in direct charge of the companies which staged yesterday's demonstration.

AMONG guests from Joliet were Mayor Arthur O. Janke and Fire Chief John O. Nygren, Col. Carroll Hudson, commanding officer of the arsenal, circled overhead in a small plane while the demonstration was in progress.

The fire show was preceded by a program at the administration building during which Stan Kroger, serving as commentator, explained the arsenal fire control setup and Capt. C. P. Traver, arsenal public relations officer, gave a brief talk on fire

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prevention. Both men pointed out that 95 per cent of all fires are preventable and emphasized the value of safety measures to eliminate loss of property and danger to lives.

Following the "big show" at the burning ground, Fireman O. L. Thompson of the arsenal fire force demonstrated the use of hand extinguishers in putting out oil, wood and gasoline fires. Water, foam and chemical types of equipment were used.